DPAP inAndhra Pradesh

4846. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team has been sent to Andhra Pradesh to assess the impact of ongoing Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) in Anantapur and Kurnool districts;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present drought has totally caused an imbalance;

(c) whether any assessment has been made on the efficacy of the present DPAP;

(d) if so, the details of such studies; and

(e) the steps proposed to enhance drought resistant programmes in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA); (a) No Sir, The Government of India did not send any team to Andhra pradesh to assess the impact of ongoing Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) Further, Anantapur is covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and not under Drought Prone Areas Programme. However, both the programmes are being implemented on watershed basis.

(b) As per the report submitted by the State Government, the effect of drought is^comparatively lower in the villages where watershed development programme has been taken up.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, The State Government has taken action to assess the impact of watershed project. Impact evaluation of these project by both internal and external agencies reveal that there is recharge of ground water, increase in number of wells and bore wells, increase in area under agriculture, increase in fodder production resulting in increase in milk yield and reduction in migration of labour.

(e) Drainage line treatment from ridge to valley, contour/graded bunding, rock fill dams, gabion structures, check dams percolation tanks, farm ponds and sunken ponds etc. besides afforestation and horticulture works are some of the steps being implemented for enhancing the efficacy of the drought resistant programmes. The local people residing in the watershed project areas are being fully involved in taking up these activities. So far 5210 watershed projects

have been sanctioned in the State under various programmes. Further, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have launched a Water Conservation Mission on 30th April, 2000, for mitigation of drought and desertification in the State.

Constraint of Funds for CAPART

4847. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is not providing very effective instrument to help the rural poor;

(b) if so, the details of the corrective measures being taken by Government to make it more effective;

(c) whether there is a constraint of funds for CAPART; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) No, Sir. In fact CAPART has been working effectively since its inception in 1986 to help the rural poor and disadvantaged section of the society like SC/ST, women, disabled persons bonded labour, child labour, etc. as an important funding agency for the voluntary organisation engaged in upliftment of the rural poor. Till date, CAPART has sanctioned project worth Rs.524 crores, released Rs.397 crores involving more than 18,700 projects and 8,000 voluntary organisations.

(b) The Council has taken a number of steps to improve its efficiency. Firstly, the process of decentralisation is decision making process was initiated with the result that 9 Regional Centres have been opened throughout the country where projects below Rs. 10 lakhs can be sanctioned. Secondly, the process of sanctioning of projects has been made transparent by constituting Regional Committees and National Standing Committees. Funds are sanctioned on the basis of the advice of the member who are expert in their field and know about the voluntary sector. Thirdly, empahasis is being given on HRD development of CAPART's own employees apart from the voluntary sector. Fourthly, innovative schemes are encouraged under the revised guidelines for public co-operation sector and instead of sanctioning stereo-type scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development now innovative and integrated projects can be taken up under CAPART's own guidelines. Workshops are being organised at